

WILLIAM WALTER WILSON AND ELIZABETH B. COLEMAN WILSON AND BERTHA (2) SONDEREGGER WILSON

813



He was born in Salt Lake City on September 22, 1863, a son of Isabella Ross and James T. Wilson. He lived successively in the Provo Valley, Arizona and Midway.

On March 21, 1894, William married Elizabeth Bailey Coleman. She died January 21, 1901. He married again on December 23, 1903, Bertha Sonderegger. He died February 28, 1939, in Midway.

Much of his early life was spent on farm and range where he learned the value of hard work, thrift and industry. He and his brothers took contracts for timber and hauled wood from the White Pines to the Ontario Mine. Later he engaged in farming and livestock raising.

Born of parents who were pioneer immigrant converts to the Church, William was reared in a wholesome but humble atmosphere without many of the educational or material advantages that are so common today. Although he attended grammar school for a limited period, he loved learning and educated himself by spare-time study, constant reading, and the practice of handwriting. He cherished education and encouraged his children to achieve. They in turn sought his advice and help in their various educational pursuits. Often he would assist them when subject matter seemed difficult.

Despite his busy life and the seemingly endless toil, work and sacrifice demanded in the rearing of his large family, William Wil-

814

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

son found time to do his share in the civic affairs of his community. He served for several terms as a member of the Midway Town Board, was secretary of the Midway Irrigation Company for many years, and assisted in various capacities in other civic organizations. Throughout his life he was active in sports both as a participant and as a patron and spectator. He enjoyed and encouraged all sports but especially favored baseball. In all worthy community activities he contributed freely.

Throughout his life William W. Wilson was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served his Church in many capacities. As a man of forty-six years with a wife and five children he fulfilled a mission to the Central States under President Samuel O. Bennion. Later he sent his daughter Elizabeth to serve in the Western States Mission. He was a member of the Midway First Ward Bishopric for thirteen years and held the office of High Priest. Also, he was an active member in the Church auxiliaries being in the Sunday School superintendency and for a number of years a teacher of the Parents' class, Mutual Improvement Association, and various Priesthood groups.

He had many interests and, busy as he was, made time to devote some of his energies to the things he liked to do. He possessed poetical ability and wrote many poems, some of which were read on patriotic and other public occasions. Being an inveterate reader, he spent as much time as possible at this interest. He was a lover of the theatre and dances.

Elizabeth Bailey Coleman was born at Midway, August 12, 1873, a daughter of William and Mary Clotworthy Coleman. She attended school at Midway. Her mother died when she was sixteen years old. She, being the eldest daughter, was given a mother's job in caring for her younger sister, two brothers, and her father who was in very poor health. She was an active worker in the YWMIA. She married William W. Wilson March 19, 1894, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. To them were born six children. Three died in infancy. Three grew to adulthood. They are William Rondo Wilson who married Evelyn Benson, Elizabeth Isabella Wilson Willmore, who married Naaman Willmore and Cecil Coleman Wilson. Elizabeth died on January 21, 1901.

Bertha Wilson was an industrious, good woman. She was active in Relief Society, was a good neighbor and devoted mother.

William Wilson's children by his second wife include:

Evelyn;

Amos;

Grant;

Elda, married to F. Odell Stanley of San Jose, California;

Geneva, married William S. McKinley of Syracuse, New York;

Elaine, married Edward W. Hughes of Washington, D.C.;

Ross, married Betty Bernhisel, Salt Lake City;

Helen, married Capt. Alger E. Hageman of Columbus, Ohio;

Kathleen, married Dr. Scott E. Lockhart of Ogden.